

Amendments to claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Please amend claims 80-114 as shown. Please cancel claims 43-79 without prejudice.

Claims 1-79 (canceled).

80. (currently amended): A method of selectively removing a non-pathogenic biological contaminant from a mixture containing a compound and the contaminant comprising:

(a) placing the compound and the contaminant mixture in a first solvent stream, the first solvent stream being separated from a second solvent stream by a selective membrane having a defined pore size;

(b) selecting a buffer for the first solvent stream having a required pH;

(c) applying an electric potential across the first and the second solvent streams stream, wherein ~~whereby~~ at least a portion of the compound moves through the membrane into the second solvent stream while the contaminant is substantially retained in the first solvent stream, and substantially all transmembrane migration of the compound is initiated by application of the electric potential;

(d) optionally, periodically stopping and reversing the electric potential whereby at least a substantial portion of the contaminant ~~contaminants~~ having entered the membrane moves ~~move~~ back into the first solvent stream, while any of the compound that has entered ~~compounds that have entered~~ the second solvent stream does ~~do~~ not re-enter the first solvent stream; and

(e) maintaining step (c), and optional step (d) if used, until the second solvent stream contains the desired purity of the compound.

81. (currently amended): The method according to claim 80 wherein ~~whereby~~ the compound is selected from the group consisting of blood proteins, immunoglobulins, recombinant proteins, and combinations thereof.

82. (currently amended): The method according to claim 80 wherein ~~whereby~~ the contaminant is selected from the group consisting of non-pathogenic bacteria, non-pathogenic viruses ~~virus~~, lipopolysaccharides ~~lipopolysaccharide~~, toxins ~~toxin~~, endotoxins ~~endotoxin~~, and combinations thereof.

83. (currently amended): The method according to claim 82 wherein ~~whereby~~ the contaminant is a lipopolysaccharide.

84. (currently amended): The method according to claim 82 wherein ~~whereby~~ the contaminant is a toxin.

85. (currently amended): The method according to claim 82 wherein ~~whereby~~ the contaminant is an endotoxin.

86. (currently amended): The method according to claim 80 wherein ~~whereby~~ the solvent for the first solvent stream has a pH lower than the isoelectric point of the compound.

87. (currently amended): The method according to claim 80 wherein ~~whereby~~ the selective membrane has a molecular mass cut-off of between about 3 kDa and about 80,000 ~~80000~~ kDa.

88. (currently amended): The method according to claim 80 wherein ~~whereby~~ the electric potential is up to about 300 volts.

89. (currently amended): The method according to claim 80 wherein ~~whereby~~ the selective membrane has a molecular cut-off close to the apparent molecular mass of the compound.

90. (currently amended): The method according to claim 80 wherein ~~whereby~~ the solvent for the first solvent stream has a pH at about the isoelectric point of the compound.

91. (currently amended): The method according to claim 80 wherein ~~whereby~~ the solvent for the first solvent has a pH above the isoelectric point of the compound.

92. (currently amended): The method according to claim 80 wherein ~~whereby~~ the selective membrane has a molecular mass cut-off of at least about 3 kDa.

93. (currently amended): The method according to claim 80 wherein ~~whereby~~ the compound is collected or removed from the second solvent stream.

94. (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~93~~ 80 wherein ~~whereby~~ the compound is substantially free of the contaminant.

95. (currently amended): The method according to claim 80 further comprising the step of applying the electric potential across a third solvent stream, wherein ~~whereby~~ the third solvent stream is separated from ~~a selected one of the first~~ or the and second solvent stream ~~streams~~ by a second selective membrane, and at least one of the compound and the contaminant moves through the second membrane and into the third solvent stream.

96. (currently amended): The method according to claim 95 further comprising the step of applying the electric potential across a fourth solvent stream, wherein ~~whereby~~ the fourth solvent stream is separated from the other of the first and the second solvent streams by a third selective membrane, and at least a portion of at least one of the compound and the contaminant moves through the third membrane and into the fourth solvent stream.

97. (currently amended): A method of selectively removing a non-pathogenic biological contaminant from a mixture containing a compound and the contaminant comprising:

(a) placing the compound and the contaminant mixture in a first solvent stream, the first solvent stream being separated from a second solvent stream by a selective membrane having a defined pore size;

(b) selecting a buffer for the first solvent stream having a required pH;

(c) applying an electric potential across the first and the second solvent streams ~~stream~~, wherein ~~whereby~~ at least a portion of the contaminant moves through the membrane into the second solvent stream while the compound is substantially retained in the first solvent stream, and substantially all transmembrane migration of the contaminant is initiated by application of the electric potential;

(d) optionally, periodically stopping and reversing the electric potential whereby at least a substantial portion of the compound ~~compound~~ having entered the membrane moves back into the first solvent stream, while any of the contaminant that has entered ~~contaminants that have entered~~ the second solvent stream does ~~do~~ not re-enter the first solvent stream; and

(e) maintaining step (c), and optional step (d) if used, until the first solvent stream contains the desired purity of the compound.

98. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the contaminant is selected from the group consisting of lipopolysaccharides ~~lipopolysaccharide~~, toxins ~~toxin~~, endotoxins ~~endotoxin~~, and combinations thereof.

99. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the contaminant is a lipopolysaccharide.

100. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the contaminant is a toxin.

101. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the contaminant is an endotoxin.

102. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the compound is selected from the group consisting of blood proteins, immunoglobulins, recombinant proteins, and combinations thereof.

103. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the solvent for the first solvent stream has a pH lower than the isoelectric point of the contaminant.

104. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the solvent for the first solvent stream has a pH at about the isoelectric point of the contaminant.

105. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the solvent for the first solvent stream has a pH above the isoelectric point of the contaminant.

106. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the selective membrane has a molecular mass cut-off close to the apparent molecular mass of the contaminant.

107. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the selective membrane has a molecular mass cut-off of at least about 3 kDa.

108. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the selective membrane has a molecular mass cut-off of between about 3 kDa and about 80,000 80000 kDa.

109. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the electric potential ~~applied~~ is up to about 300 volts.

110. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the contaminant is collected or removed from the second solvent stream.

111. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ substantially all of the contaminant is removed from the mixture.

112. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 wherein ~~whereby~~ the mixture comprises at least two types of contaminant and only one type ~~is caused to move~~ moves into the second solvent stream.

113. (currently amended): The method according to claim 97 further comprising the step of applying the electric potential across a third solvent stream, wherein ~~whereby~~ the third solvent stream is separated from ~~a selected one of the first~~ or the ~~and~~ second solvent stream ~~streams~~ by a second selective membrane, and at least one of the compound and the contaminant moves through the second membrane and into the third solvent stream.

114. (currently amended): The method according to claim 113 further comprising the step of applying the electric potential across a fourth solvent stream, wherein ~~whereby~~ the fourth solvent stream is separated from the other of the first and the second solvent streams by a third selective membrane, and at least a portion of at least one of the compound and the contaminant moves through the third membrane and into the fourth solvent stream.